

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
National Foreign Assessment Center

MEMO  
ONLY

26 March 1980

SIAGC-1-80-10027-M

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, National Foreign Assessment Center

FROM: [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: The Possibility of Soviet Cross-border Actions Directed at Afghan Refugees in Pakistan (U)

REFERENCE: Your Request for Information on this Topic (U)

Attachment:  
Afghan Refugees in Pakistan:  
Potential for Soviet Intervention?  
(GC M 80-10027)

NOT MICROFILMED

Document Services Branch Copy

Confidential When Detached from Attachment

DERIVATIVE COPY  
C OCL 2  
DERIVED FROM

SECRET

~~SECRET~~

The Numbers

By current best estimates, more than 600,000-Afghan refugees are located in the border areas of Pakistan, from Chitral in the north as far south and west as Dalbandin, in Baluchistan Province. Most are in the North-West Frontier Province; fewer than 90,000 are in Baluchistan. The number in the northern areas will swell as refugees from the current military operations make their way to Pakistan. Reportedly they are already on their way toward Bajaur District and Mohmand tribal territory. If Soviet anti-guerrilla operations continue to expand, the refugee totals in Pakistan could approach 1 million by April or May. (U)

Most of the refugee influx occurred during the last six months. A trickle of refugees began to flow toward Pakistan in May 1978. The number of registered refugees in camps increased from approximately 18,000 in January 1979 to 153,000 in September 1979, then doubled to 390,000 by January 1980. Many uncounted Afghans have been absorbed into tribes in Pakistan related to their own. (U)

~~SECRET~~

Currently, there are 53 loose concentrations of refugees, which in a broad sense can be considered camps. Of these, 23 are in the North-West Frontier Province and 30 in Baluchistan. The size of these encampments ranges from 500 to 11,000; the number fluctuates as refugees move in and out. Most of the refugees not in camps are in the North-West Frontier Province. Many of these are clustered in groups of three to eight families, encamped wherever water is available. Scarcity of water and forage in the arid border zone limits the size of encampments and dictates periodic moves. (U)

#### Composition of Refugee Groups

Cross-border tribal ties, combined with the tendency to travel in extended family units, has enabled the refugees to survive without much government support. The need, however, for food, shelter, and sanitation systems is great. Most refugees eventually register with government agencies in order to establish eligibility for relief supplies, including UN aid administered by the Pakistan Government. (U)

Some clearly are not refugees in the normal meaning of the term. In determining refugee status, the Pakistani Government is systematically excluding kuchis, the nomads who annually migrate from the mountains in Afghanistan into the warmer valleys in Pakistan during the winter. Trying to justify their registration as refugees, and thus their eligibility for government largesse, the kuchis say that although they arrived as usual last fall, they do not plan to return to Afghanistan this spring because of unsettled conditions there. Most of the kuchis are Ghilzais, and are concentrated in the Gomal and Tochi River valleys in Waziristan, and in Baluchistan. (U)